

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of computing, comprising:
at a processor in a storage network:
 receiving a service request from a user of the storage network;
 determining an amount of credit available on a local media for the user of
the storage network;
 implementing the service request at the processor when the amount of
credit is sufficient to execute the service request; and
 when the amount of credit is insufficient to execute the service request:
 generating, in response to the received service request, a token
request for a service token; and
 transmitting the token request to a server communicatively
connected to the storage network; and
at the server:
 validating the token request;
 transmitting to the processor a response to the validated token request;
and
at the processor in the storage network:
 invoking the service request, at the processor in the storage network, a
service call if when the response to the token request includes at least one
service token.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the service request is
generated by at least one of a user of a device in the storage network or by a
processor communicatively connected to the storage network.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises
a request for at least one of a data mirroring service, a remote copy service, a
back-up service, a recovery service, or a LUN extension service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a token request comprises retrieving at least one account identifier for an account associated with a device in the storage network.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein generating a token request comprises incorporating into the token request information identifying the service request.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein validating the token request comprises validating the at least one account identifier associated with the service request.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein validating the token request comprises determining whether the account associated with the at least one account identifier comprises sufficient credit to receive a token.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising retrieving information from a third-party credit bureau.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the response to the token request comprises at least one of:
 - an account identifier;
 - an account balance;
 - a code, decipherable by the processor, granting or denying permission to invoke the service call; and
 - a software module, executable by the processor, for invoking the service call.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating account information at the processor in the storage network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the response to the token request comprises a software module, executable by the processor, for invoking the service call.

A method of implementing fee-based storage services, comprising:
— receiving, at a processor in a storage device, a service request;
— executing the service request; and
— transmitting, to an account server, information identifying an account associated with the processor and the service request.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the processor in the storage network;

— receives the response to the token request; and
— executes the software module to invoke the service request.
~~service request comprises a request for at least one of a data-mirroring service, a remote-copy service, a back-up service, a recovery service, or a LUN extension service.~~

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the processor maintains account information associated with one or more storage devices, and wherein the processor updates account information to reflect execution of the service request.

14-34. (Canceled).

35. (New) A storage system, comprising:

a local controller comprising a processor and a memory module, wherein the memory module comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to:

receive a service request from a user of the storage network;

determine an amount of credit available on a local media for the user of the storage network;

implement the service request at the processor when the amount of credit is sufficient to execute the service request; and

when the amount of credit is insufficient to execute the service request:

generate, in response to the received service request, a token request for a service token; and

transmit the token request to a server communicatively connected to the storage network; and

a remote server coupled to the local controller comprising a processor and a memory module, wherein the memory module comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to:

validate the token request; and

transmit to the processor a response to the validated token request; and at the processor in the storage network,

wherein the processor invokes the service request when the response to the token request includes at least one service token.

36. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the service request is generated by at least one of a user of a device in the storage network or by a processor communicatively connected to the storage network.

37. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the service request comprises a request for at least one of a data mirroring service, a remote copy service, a back-up service, a recovery service, or a LUN extension service.

38. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the local controller comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to retrieve at least one account identifier for an account associated with a device in the storage network.
39. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the local controller comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to incorporate into the token request information identifying the service request.
40. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the remote server comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to validate the at least one account identifier associated with the service request.
41. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the remote server comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to determine whether the account associated with the at least one account identifier comprises sufficient credit to receive a token.
42. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the remote server comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to retrieve information from a third-party credit bureau.
43. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the response to the token request comprises at least one of:
- an account identifier;
 - an account balance;
 - a code, decipherable by the processor, granting or denying permission to invoke the service call; and
 - a software module, executable by the processor, for invoking the service call.

44. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the memory module on the local controller comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to update account information at the processor in the storage network.

45. (New) The storage system of claim 35, wherein the response to the token request comprises a software module, executable by the processor, for invoking the service call.

46. (New) The storage system of claim 45, wherein the memory module on the local controller comprises logic instructions which, when executed by the processor, configure the processor to:

receive the response to the token request; and

execute the software module to invoke the service request.

47. The storage system of claim 45, wherein the processor maintains account information associated with one or more storage devices, and wherein the processor updates account information to reflect execution of the service request.